To: Files, HW, JMS
From: PH
Subject: Recently received documents re CIA, LHO in Mexico City

HW sent me the just-released letter of 17 Sep 1964, Helms to Rankin. (Copy to JMS.)

We should get the letter of 24 August 1964 referred to, and also the CIA letter of 1/4/71 authorizing the declassification. I have asked for the FBI/JD letter of Nov 3, 1970, concerning their new releases.**

I recall that the file cover for File VI in CD 1184 has a reference to item 17(2) stating that it is a highly-classified CIA document which must be removed from the file before the Commission finishes up. I guess it is important.

In connection with the other item, the dispatch of Oct. 11: note that the State Dept. gave the WC 3 files which had it: II (SOY), III (PPT - apparently the post-11/22 part? - unclear to me), and XI (SY - Office of Security). This is consistent with the distribution shown on the slip in CE 2075. There were also copies to CIA/Mexico and RAR/P. As we already knew, these indicate 'Oswald' files which the WC never got. The former - Carribean and Mexican affairs - may be the 'Mann file' referred to as 'controversial' in the misfiled routing slip I found at the Archives. The latter is 'American Republics Political Division" (See 18H232). Someone should bug the State Dept. for these files. My one attempt to use the F of I bill with State didn't get very far. We should try for these files when we have gone over all the new stuff, and some of the old, and gathered all the references to what is in them.

I assume that the 'dispatch dated 10/11', which is a two-page item, is the same as the one-page routing slip (as in CE 2075) and the attached one-page telegram dated Oct. 10 (See 18H188). Apparently the copy in the pre-assassination PPT file (File 10) is the one that was burnt up.

I see now that I could easily spend all day digging up and coordinating the various references to the CIA telegram and its contents. There are quite a few in the 26, mostly in reports from other agencies; I found several at the Archives in May (including a reference that apparently slipped by the censor - "CIA Teletype #74673 re OSWALD, Lee Henry, 10/10/3"- CD 294bc) I'm tempted but I just can't take the time - I wish I found my physics work nearly so interesting. Jim: would you like to take this on as a project?

CD 1084d has just been released. I am sending a copy of pages 4-6 to JMS; none to Harold, who should be getting it soon from Bud's office. This is as clear a description of CIA taps and/or bugs at the embassies as one could ask for. (And I missed that the first time through!) It is an FBI report, starting out with "Another U.S. Government agency (translation=CIA) is in possession of the following information, which coincides with the time when OSWALD was in Mexico City and which is believed to have some bearing on his activities in Mexico City." (My italics. Translation: we are not convinced the person involved was really Oswald.)

The first sentence says that on Sep. 27, 1963, an unidentified man asked the Soviet Embassy about visas for Odessa. There is no apparent necessary connection with the other items, although the next one is in the same paragraph. Did LHO do this on the 27th? I think not. If I didn't know that CE 237 was taken on Oct. 4, I would speculate a connection.

The next sections cover Sep. 28, and the detailed reproduction of what happened suggests a bug or tap. Reads like the old third-person transcripts of press conferences- "The Soviet indicated that he did not know what to do with the American. Duran indicated the American had a problem..." I wonder if the CIA still has the tapes?

Seems to say LHO called the Sov. Emb. to tell them that he had gone to the Cuban Emb. to get his address and would be right over. Makes little sense, but if an impersonator wanted to leave a record with the CIA this would have done it. The Oct. 1 visit/call was apparently the first time the CIA got LHO's name; that resulted in the telegram to State, etc.

Check: other CIA/FBI liason as indicated in the list in CE 834; story re of Pedro Gutierrez, CE 2121, p. 126 ff. And much much more, which I guess I have never gone over carefully. Comments welcomed.

** Almost forgot-note wording of last para. of Helms ltr. Ask Jacobsen if they have the withheld docs. If not, let's figure out that 'secret file' business.